

Message Text

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65

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 DHA-02 BIB-01 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5254

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E. O. 11652: N/A (DECLASS 10/31/76)

TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, CI

SUBJECT: VISIT OF IAPA REPRESENTATIVES

REF: STATE 227837-C

1. INTER-AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION (IAPA) TEAM COMPOSED OF DAVID G. MEISSNER, EDITORIAL WRITER, "MILWAUKEE JOURNAL" AND GUIDO FERNANDEZ, EDITOR, "LA NACION", COSTA RICA, DEPARTED SANTIAGO OCT. 16 AFTER FOUR-DAY VISIT, INVESTIGATING FREEDOM OF PRESS IN CHILE.

2. MEISSNER CALLED ON PAO AND IO AND REPORTED HE PERSONALLY SATISFIED WITH VISIT. WOULD NOT, HOWEVER, DISCUSS HIS CONCLUSIONS. SAID

SATISFIED WITH VISIT. SCHEDULE WAS ARRANGED BY EDUARDO SILVA, GENERAL MANAGER OF "EL MERCURIO"/ MEISSNER SAID HE AND FERNANDEZ MET WITH EDUARDO FREI, FORMER PRESIDENT OF CHILE, AND PATRICIO AYLWIN, PRESIDENT OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY; THAT PARTY'S RADIO BALMACEDA, WHICH IN PAST SIX MONTHS HAS BEEN EITHER CLOSED OR CENSORED BY GOC ON TWO OCCASIONS, AND "MENSAJE," LOCAL JESUIT PUBLICATION WHICH HAD CENSORSHIP PROBLEMS IN PAST. THEY
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ALSO SAW GOC INFORMATION OFFICIALS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF "EL

MECURIO," TELEVISION AND OTHER RADIO STATIONS. MEISSNER
COULD NOT RECALL NAMES OF MOST MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES BECAUSE
HE SAID CONVERSATIONS WERE IN RAPID SPANISH WHICH HE COULD NOT
UNDERSTAND AND THEREFORE WERE HANDLED BY FERNANDEZ.

3. VISIT RECEIVED LOW-KEY PLAY IN "EL MERCURIO."

4. COMMENT: VISIT DEMONSTRATES THAT PINOCHET'S JULY DECISION TO
BAR UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION WORKING GROUP FROM CHILE WAS
NOT NECESSARILY A PRECEDENT FOR ALL FUTURE FOREIGN INVESTIGATIONS,
GOVERNMENTAL AND NONGOVERNMENTAL.
POPPER

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